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modify earlier conclusions. The many points with regard to which it might be expected to do so are the negotiations between Kléber and Sir Sydney Smith for the Convention of El Arisch, later repudiated by Admiral Keith, and the controversy between Bonaparte and Kléber or their friends as to the condition in which the army and the finances were left by the former. On the first matter the important papers are not given; nor does the latter difficulty seem to be satisfactorily settled. The editor makes no effort to discuss the controversy carefully (see pp. xvi-xvii), and an examination of the papers does not leave us much better off, though on the whole they support Kléber.

As might be expected, the additions to our knowledge made by this publication are mainly as to the personalities of Kléber and Menou, and the methods of civil and military administration; we are left with vivid impressions of the men, and with fairly definite ideas as to how government was being conducted. It would be interesting to dwell on the attractive figure of Kléber; Menou decidedly loses in the contrast. There are some interesting and probably new side-lights on Bonaparte's previous conduct of affairs.

VICTOR COFFIN.

Lettres de Madame Reinhard à sa Mère, 1798-1815. Traduites de l'allemand et publiées pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par la Baronne de WIMPFEN, née Reinhard. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1901. Pp. xxvii, 429.)

THIS volume of letters will immediately take a place among the most interesting publications of the Société d'Histoire Contemporaine. Written by the clever wife of a clever and responsible French diplomat, who, during the period covered by the letters (1798-1815) filled important posts at Florence, Berne, Jassy, Cassel, and in the Foreign Office at Paris, they furnish, as far as they go, a trustworthy record of the reaction of the French Revolution upon a number of smaller European governments, and teem with lively descriptions of persons and of places. The harvest of political fact, however, is not as considerable as it might have been if Madame Reinhard had not felt that she owed a certain consideration to her husband's position, and that she must not trust too deeply in a mail system which, in a period of wars and violence, was only too often operated for the benefit of one's enemies. But a reticence occasionally and voluntarily imposed does not, it will be recognized, impair the general spirit of probity and sincerity in which the letters are conceived. They were addressed to the writer's mother, before whom Madame Reinhard had no secrets, and such is their ease, uprightness, and charming, impressionistic volubility that they secure her a place among the masters of that difficult art of letter writing, in which none but women seem to arrive at excellence. These statements disclose where the real significance of this volume lies: not so much in new political facts as in personal appreciations of well-known contemporaries, and in vivacious

and ingenuous pictures of contemporary life. It is a cause for regret that the work is not complete, the editor, Madame Wimpffen, having found herself obliged for various reasons to give a selection merely of what seemed to her the most important letters, and it is a distinct diminution of their value that, although written originally in German, they are offered to the public in a French translation, the accuracy of which the reader has no means of controlling.

In the year 1796 Fräulein Reimarus, the daughter of a celebrated Hamburg physician, married Charles-Frédéric Reinhard, diplomatic representative in her native city of the new French republic. It is to be observed that Reinhard was himself a German, having been born in the year 1761 in the duchy of Württemberg. He is thus to be reckoned among that considerable band of his countrymen who, either for political or for personal reasons, expatriated themselves to seek their fortunes beyond the Rhine. Difficult as it is for a person living one hundred years after to believe, Reinhard, while becoming an excellent Frenchman whose loyalty was never questioned—he was rewarded toward the end of his life with a French peerage—remained always in the most intimate relations with literary and scientific Germany. He was a man with two loyalties, a loyalty of soul and a loyalty of hand and service, and he seems never to have felt or at least to have admitted their incompatibility. The statement holds also for his wife, who, although writing in German to a German mother established in Germany, and linked in her inner life almost exclusively with Germans, does not yield in clamorous French patriotism to any subject of Napoleon regularly baptized with water of the Seine. This national dualism, emblem and expression of the time when united France was the greatest political power of Europe, and divided Germany respectable merely as a great cultural power, gives the letters a psychological background that affects in a very complicated way the material presented by the writer and constantly renews the reader's interest. To give an example: Both Madame Reinhard and her husband entered in the year 1807 into very intimate relations with Goethe, for whom ever afterward they entertained the most profound admiration; yet the overthrow of Prussia, completed in this same year, and involving the overthrow of all Germany, arouses in the fair correspondent the most ardent expressions of satisfaction.

I have said that one's pleasure in this volume lies chiefly in the illuminating glimpses which we get of contemporary actors and contemporary manners. Napoleon, Goethe, the king of Saxony, Talleyrand, are rapidly drawn as they appeared at the moment of transit across the writer's vision, and the sketch has a palpability and picturesqueness that makes the object glow with more vitality than if it had been honored with a laborious essay. I do not think that the unsympathetic quality which made Madame de Staël so great a bore even to her admirers, has ever been more clearly or more maliciously illustrated than in the descriptions on page 99 and page 409. The glimpse of Napoleon racing sullenly through the famous gallery of Dresden (p. 340) is irresistibly funny, and

the several portraits of the declaiming and expounding Goethe (pp. 325-338) have more human value than a whole new *Jahrbuch* of the Goethe Gesellschaft. Mme. Reinhard makes her most serious effort in the journal of her Russian trip (p. 235 ff.), and the way in which the reader is brought near to Russian prisons, Russian officials and Russian landscape, must convince him that the writer's intellect is quite on a level with her artistic perceptions.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

Souvenirs Politiques du Comte de Salaberry sur la Restauration, 1821-30. Publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par le Comte de SALABERRY son petit-fils. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1900. Two vols., pp. xix, 285, 325.)

THESE volumes are the latest publications of the "Société d'Histoire Contemporaine," and show a commendable activity on the part of that organization. But the society might easily have found more valuable objects of its preservative care; we have here in fact little more than a series of political pamphlets thrown into a connected narrative form (with the narrative very incomplete, and always a secondary and indeed incidental matter), and almost wholly unprovided with documents. Very little information of convincing weight is to be garnered here, and the accepted general conclusions are not affected. We are told much in regard to individuals both small and great that the close student will consider; but most of the personal sketches are hopelessly vague and incomplete, and of interest mainly as reflecting malicious political gossip. The author deigns to touch nothing that is not political; the student will search these volumes in vain for any direct light on general social or intellectual conditions.

The "Souvenirs" begin with the formation of the Villèle ministry in the middle of December 1821, and close with the elections of June 1830, Vol. II. beginning with 1826; the arrangement is loosely chronological, and the matter is divided into "Livres" on no perceptible principle. We therefore have here no information or reflections on the revolutionary events of 1830, though we reach the very verge of the catastrophe, and in the last pages (probably written after July 1830), have some statements with reference to preceding revolutionary disturbances that we suspect display knowledge after the event. The question of the date of the composition or final revision is invested with difficulty. The editor does not refer to the point (a fact which is representative of the value of the editing) and we are thrown entirely upon internal evidence. From this I conclude that these "essais" (as the author himself terms them,—II. 35), were written almost entirely in the reign of Charles X., and that the work was never carefully revised (frequent repetitions and abrupt ending); the writing was probably begun late in 1824 or early in 1825, and continued thereafter at probably never more than a year's distance from the events dealt with. They were evidently written for the public (see I. 9, 178; II. 35, 68), but apparently the revolution